

understood, these sheets themselves have no physical indication of such equipotential lines and reference is made thereto only in the interest of understanding the invention. Finally, resting upon the sheet 10 and with its respective edge scales (indicated by 1 to 9) suitably positioned with respect to the equipotential lines of sheets 10 and 14 is a chart 24 having data such as indicated by the curve 25 which is to provide the information to be sensed and employed by an information-indicating unit.

The sheets 10 and 14 may comprise, for example, conducting paper Type L resistance 1,500-2,000 ohms per square, Catalogue No. P-24 available from Sunshine Scientific Instrument Co., Philadelphia, Pa., and the strip electrodes may comprise conducting paint applied to the opposite edges of the sheet with the respective conductors 18, 19 and with the respective leads to the battery terminals being bonded in such paint. Alternately, copper or other conducting bars connected to such conductors and leads may be physically clamped to the sheets, if so desired.

With the assembly prepared as above described and with the electrodes energized by the batteries and with the conductors 18, 19 attached to the information-indicating unit, the user then moves the grounded conducting probe 21 to point P and pushes the same into the sheets 10 and 14 whereupon the signals S_x and S_y are then available as direct current potentials measured from the common ground. Probe 21 preferably is a metallic needle which forms a small hole (about 3 mils in diameter) in the sheets and with a commensurate small amount of damage to the punctured sheets, and with the result that a given conductive sheet may be used with as many as 50 or more charts 24 before being replaced.

As will be appreciated, in certain modifications the probe itself need not be grounded nor indeed cause puncturing of the sheets. As indicated in FIG. 4, for example, the assembly of sheets may include a grounded metallic sheet 30 such as aluminum foil, disposed beneath the lower sheet 22 of insulating material and connected by conductor 31 to the information-indicating unit 32. In this arrangement the probe 33 may merely comprise a conductive puncturing member mounted on a handle and which when it touches the grounded sheet 30 will thereupon cause the signals S_x and S_y to be applied to the unit 32 due to the simultaneous grounding of sheets 10 and 14 at the point P (x, y).

As shown in FIG. 5, the principle of the invention may be employed with a structure different from that shown in FIG. 1 and in which one of the sheets, for example sheet 10, is supported on the underside of an insulator block 40 and the other conductive sheet 14 is supported on the upper facing side of another insulator block 41. These blocks are spaced from each other at a sufficient distance to accommodate movement of a follower member 42 which is suitably grounded as by conductor 43. Attached to the member 42 is a pair of grounded contacts 44, 45 adapted to engage the respective sheets 10 and 14 without puncturing the same. Also attached to member 42 is a bracket 46 serving as a handle and having an indicator element 47 adapted to be positioned at the point P (x, y) over the chart 24 which contains the information to be transposed and which is mounted upon the outer surface of the block 40. As will be noted, as the indicator element 47 is moved to a spot on chart 24 corresponding to point P (x, y) the contacts 44, 45 follow this movement and since they are grounded the requisite signals S_x and S_y are applied to the unit 32 as above described with respect to the embodiments of FIGS. 3 and 4.

Passing now to FIG. 6, the invention is especially well suited for replotting purposes and often the use of independent x and y gains in the signals S_x and S_y are desired. Moreover, when the information-indicating unit is represented by equipment requiring a "seek" and an "enable" signal, such as the well known Moseley recorder, the present invention may be employed by simply adding conventional potentiometers and two additional normally ungrounded sheets of electrical conductors such as aluminum foil insulated from each other. In this modification the lowermost sheet 50 of metal is separated

from an upper sheet 51 of metal by the insulating sheet 52. The stack consisting of x coordinate sheet 10, insulating sheet 23, y coordinate sheet 14, and insulating sheet 22 as above described with respect to FIG. 3 is disposed above the upper metal sheet 51. A first potentiometer having a pair of resistances 53, 54 is connected in parallel with battery 13 across the electrodes 11, 12 of the x coordinate sheet 10 and similarly a second potentiometer having a pair of resistances 55, 56 is connected in parallel with battery 15 across the electrodes 17, 18 of the y coordinate sheet 14. As an example, the batteries may provide a potential difference of 12.0 volts across their terminals when their switches 57 and 58 are closed and each of the potentiometer resistances may be about 1,500 ohms.

Connected to the information-indicating unit 62, which may be the conventional Moseley X-Y plotter, are conductors 59 and 60 respectively extending from sheets 51 and 50 and applying the "seek" and the "enable" signals to the plotter. Accordingly, when the grounded probe 21 is positioned above the desired point on a strip chart (not shown) disposed above sheet 10 and corresponding to point P (x, y) and is then moved downwardly into contact with sheet 50 the following events occur.

As the probe passes through the strip chart (not shown) into sheet 10 a signal corresponding to the X coordinate of point P is applied through conductor 18 to the plotter. Then as the probe passes through sheet 14 a signal corresponding to the y coordinate of the point P is applied through conductor 19 to another terminal of the plotter. Internal x and y gains internal to that plotter permit independent rescaling of x and y coordinates.

By means of the simple circuits shown in FIG. 6 and by suitable adjustment of the sliding contacts of the potentiometers the operator may establish an arbitrary "zero" on the strip chart to appear at a desired "zero" location on the replotted function. Furthermore, the required "seek" and "enable" commands are applied through the conductors 59 and 60 respectively to the plotter. Thus, the apparatus can easily provide for rescaling of either the x or the y values; can make arbitrary selection of origin of such values; and lends itself to making automatic plot commands to the plotter unit.

As will be understood, the invention is not limited to use with data replotters and the term "information-indicating unit" as used herein is intended to comprehend other forms of conventional apparatus. For example, simple digital voltmeters may be employed for detecting the S_x and S_y signals from the assembly of sheets; or such signals may be transmitted to and stored on tape; or such signals may be transferred directly into computers. In addition, the term "probe" as used herein is not limited to a member consciously moved by the operator, but may in fact be a random signal—initiating means as for example a projectile piercing the sheets; a random moving particle or object touching the sheets to generate signals; or other grounded or non-grounded object capable of causing the two S_x and S_y signals to be generated.

Having thus described preferred forms of coordinated apparatus by means of which the invention is practiced, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical sensor of plane coordinates comprising first and second sheets of conductive material spaced from each other and having a uniform resistivity throughout, insulating means separating said sheets, each of said sheets having attached thereto a pair of electrodes equally spaced from each other across the sheet, said sheets being juxtaposed to provide an indeterminate number of sets of plane coordinates in the form of equipotential lines normal to each other across the respective sheets of conductive material first and second electrical circuits including the respective conductive sheets floating with respect to each other and with respect to ground, a pair of conductors extending respectively from one of the